THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT.) SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) "Deep Seismic Sounding" (DSS) is a seismic survey method (usually refreaction) used for studying deeprer events like basement configuration, tectonic setting of sedimentary basins, so far as oil exploration is concerned.

There is no proposal to appoint a Scientific expert/advisor on "Deep Sounding" in the Ministry as since 1976 such surveys have been carried out by National Geophysical Research Institute on contract bassis for ONGC, OIL and other organizations.

ONGC's plan to renovate sick oil wells

1177. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND MANUAL NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC has drawn up any plan to renovate sick oil wells;

(b) by when this plan is likely to be completed; and

(c) what is the likely shortfall in crude oil production because of renovation work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAP. SATISH SHARMA) . (a) and (b) Quarterly workover plans are prepared by ONGC Ltd., for repairing the sick/non-flowing oil wells based on priorities drawn in each region/project. This is a continuous process.

(c) The anual oil production plans are prepared keeping in view the workover/repair plans of sick/non-flowing wells. Therefore, no shortfall in the planned production can normally be attributed to the repair of sick/non flowing wells.

Prices of imported crude oil

1178. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the average price at which crude oil was imported during 1992-93;

(b) what is the average price paid to ONGC and Oil India for their crude oil; and

(c) what is the level of customs duty on imported crude oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) (a) The average price of crude oil imported during 1992-93 was US $ 17 88 per barrel.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited have been paid an average price of Rs. 1,505/MT with effect from 15/16-9-1992 for the crude supplies.

(c) The custom duty on imported crude oil is Rs. 1,500 per MT.

Withdrawal of special cess on petroleum products

1179. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are continuing to impose special cess petroleum products introduced in the wake of the Gulf War on a temporary basis; and

(b) by when Government propose to withdraw this cess ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTERY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) (a) and (b) In view of the fluidity in the international oil market, there is no proposal at present to withdraw the Gulf Surcharge.

Oman gas pipe line project

1180. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be